

The

# TLC Trumpet

Keeping you informed and sharing our experience, strength & hope in the love of Christ

Volume 4 No. 9

[www.thanksgivinglutheran.org](http://www.thanksgivinglutheran.org)

September 2007

## **Bringing + Including + Celebrating = Evangelism!**

One of the first things that became clear during our congregation's Mission Planning work with Dale Sollom-Brotherton last year was our need to develop a common understanding of the term "evangelism"—the word comes from the Greek 'euangélion,' meaning 'good news,' but just what does evangelism (sharing the good news!) mean to us in our particular context, and how can we talk about and "do" evangelism in a way that can excite us instead of scare us?

To begin the conversation, earlier this year the Defining Evangelism Task Force brought us two wonderful guest speakers, Rev. Peter Rehwaldt and Rev. Bonnie Bell; while the excitement of calling and welcoming Pastor Jean created a bit of a lull in the "public" conversation on this topic, that doesn't mean that the Task Force stopped talking! Recently I got together with Task Force members Marilyn Schuler and Jan Thomas, and as we were thinking about what we had gleaned from the guest speakers and how the ideas they shared meshed with the style and personality of our congregation, we found ourselves repeatedly attracted to the verbs '**bringing**,' '**including**' and '**celebrating**.' The more we talked about these descriptive verbs, the more possibilities we saw for how useful these three simple words could be for shaping our conversations, inspiring our planning and activities, and just plain taking the "scariness" out of the idea of evangelism! Now isn't that good news!

In a previous Trumpet article a few months ago, I suggested that if you were to ask 12 members of TLC to tell you what "evangelism" means you would probably get 12 different answers. Now, I'd like to propose that each of us think about how we might personally "define evangelism" by using the terms **bringing**, **including**, and **celebrating** as the basic common starting points. Thinking about your own experiences of God's love and grace and your experiences at TLC (and using your imagination as well!), how might YOU fill in these blanks?

- o **Bringing** \_\_\_\_\_ (What or who? How?)
- o **Including** \_\_\_\_\_ (What or who? How?)
- o **Celebrating** \_\_\_\_\_ (What? How?)

During the next few weeks and months, we'll be "collecting your thoughts" on small slips of paper that will be handed out randomly at worship, committee meetings, and even social gatherings, and we'll share the variety of responses at our November 4 congregational meeting (I'm betting we'll be surprised and inspired by the variety!) To further inspire us to action, the Defining Evangelism Task Force will also present two video/discussion Adult Forums in October. I hope that the possibilities suggested by 'bringing', 'including', and 'celebrating' will help change our fears about "doing evangelism" from *stumbling* blocks to *building* blocks!

*Sandy Koppen, Council President*

# Just Get Over It

By Paul Feiertag

Ingrid and I returned from the 2007 Churchwide Assembly (CWA) in Chicago with a new, positive outlook on the future of our ELCA, especially in terms of our special interest—the full acceptance of LGBTQ members in every aspect of church life. We did not bring home that level of acceptance; the vote to change the discriminatory policies lost 45% to 55% at the assembly. Two years ago at CWA in Orlando only 33% voted for change. We will continue to tell our stories of people who just happen to be LGBT—family members, friends, our doctors, pastors, counselors, military personnel, people in all walks of life who receive God's love in Word and Sacrament the same as it has been since Pentecost and the birth of the Christian Church.

David Rhoads is a New Testament professor at our ELCA seminary in Chicago who has an amazing gift for memorization. In Missouri I experienced him reciting the whole Gospel of Mark from memory. What a giant leap in faith that brought to me! At CWA07 in the context of using Scripture to study sexuality, he recited Paul's Letter to the Churches in Galatia. We were told not to follow along in our Bibles. Seeing Dr. Rhoads' face on the huge screen (probably 60 square feet) with all the emotion of Paul's words of law contorting his face when Paul was communicating anger or frustration but communicating with smiles his words of Gospel. His direct eye contact with us prevented our minds from wandering. We were captured by God's word and could not escape the implications of living in the freedom from the law. What an experience!

What I realized later was that all 1,500 of us could not possibly have used that experience to create two mutually exclusive positions on the issue of gays' place in the church. What came through so strongly was that everyone in that huge space was united in Jesus Christ. There were no sides with an undetermined middle ground that did not identify with either side. Jesus Christ has made us all one body, and we are all free from the law. There can be differences of opinion on matters of sexuality, but our unity in Christ transcends all of our opinions. No matter how much I read and study the issue, I cannot say that I have the truth on this issue. That is why TLC in its collective wisdom declared that because Jesus invited all to his table, TLC can do no less than open our welcome and our table to all. **We proclaim now what we know to be true of the realm of God: Everyone is welcome and saved by God's grace**—not by our doctrines or our opposite-gender marriages or our same-gender committed relationships.

Look at some of the issues that have caused labels to be applied to people baptized and united to Christ Jesus and then excluded from the table: divorce, Latin or German, racially mixed congregations, the death penalty, birth control pills, abortion, women suffrage in church meetings, men and women sitting together, conscientious objector status in wartime, pacifism, interracial marriage, the Book of Jonah as parable or historical fact, evolution or 7 day creation.

Once, while I was at seminary, I noticed in an old document that the church had an official committee to investigate instances of dancing by members in churches and to issue reports to church conventions. I was intrigued and followed the reports through the years until they simply ceased without explanation. The committee was never officially disbanded; the reports simply stopped. My parents disagreed on the issue, but the LCMS did not talk about it any more.

I think that is what will eventually happen with the "issue" of homosexuality. When I turned in our rental car in Chicago, a woman asked me why I had come to Chicago. The ELCA Churchwide Assembly, I told her. "Oh, I have been watching that in the newspaper." She told me

*See "Get Over It", bottom of next page...*

## ***Lutheran Woman Today Bible Study Begins September 17!***

Quite a few women have expressed interest in participating in the one-meeting-a-month, September-May Bible Study, "Blessed to Follow: The Beatitudes as a Compass for Discipleship!" Our first session will be **Monday, September 17, 7 pm, at church.**

It will be helpful if you have had a chance to review the participant materials, which appear each month in *Lutheran Woman Today* magazine, before the session (although I encourage you to come anyway, "prepared" or not!) Since most of your subscriptions have probably not quite kicked in yet, I will provide you with a copy of the September materials in early September (If you haven't already let me know that you want to participate, be sure and speak up now so I can share the materials!)

If you haven't yet started your subscription (just \$12/year), and need info about that, see the kiosk in the narthex, talk to me, Sandy Koppen, 545-4229 or [koppens4@comcast.net](mailto:koppens4@comcast.net), or check out the *Lutheran Woman Today* website, [www.lutheranwomantoday.org](http://www.lutheranwomantoday.org). Come be blessed, and appreciate that you are also a blessing to others!

### **NIFTY-FIFTY +**

September is BUNCO!!  
(Yep, we are doing that again!)

Bunco night will be Thursday, September 27 at the church.

We will need extra card tables, so if you have one you can bring, please let me know!

I will be there to help all those who forgot how to play Bunco

and teach those who don't know how.

Pot luck at 6 PM

Bunco at 6:45!

I think I will start a new tradition: September Bunco.

All food has to be in the "B" list of food!

So get out those cookbooks and find a "B" food - Banana Cream Pie jumps right out there!!

There is a signup sheet on the kiosk in the narthex.

*Mary Dawson*

### **Presentation on Islam to be Featured at Fall Conference Assembly**

An informative look at Islam by Dr. Daren Erisman will be the featured presentation at the Fall Assembly of the Gateway Conference of the Sierra Pacific Synod (this is our Conference). The Assembly will be held on **October 21**, beginning at 3:00 p.m., and will be held at Cross and Crown Lutheran Church.

Other items on the program include learning about current happenings with Synod Council and Bishop's Office and election of a new Conference Dean. The Conference Dean serves as our liaison to the Synod Council and Bishop.

Anybody is invited to attend Conference events. It is good to develop awareness of wider church expressions, and it certainly doesn't hurt the body of Christ to develop relationships with folks of other ELCA parishes in our area, so consider coming to the Conference Assembly.

*Pastor Jean*

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*Get Over It, continued...*

that she was part of the Reform Jewish tradition that settled the issue of homosexuality about fifteen years ago, allowing gays to be rabbis and equating same-gender relationships with marriages. "Now nobody talks about it at all." She told me that she was looking for the ELCA to vote for total acceptance of gays so that Christians could get over it like the Reformed Jews have done. I told her we would try to do just that two years from now.



## 2/3rds Time Pastor?

I needed to call Pastor Jean last week about something, either a question to her or a question from her, that was a week ago, so of course I don't remember which!

Oh yes, to the point! I was a wee bit leery to call her as I wasn't certain which part of the week was our 2/3rds.

So I called anyhow and asked her if it was her day or not! Guess what?? You can call Pastor Jean anytime 24-7-365! Yeah, her phone works all the time, her phone is not on 2/3rds time!

So the real point of all this is Pastor Jean is available by phone when and if needed. Write this number down for future reference. 327-6292

An additional note, this article was approved by Pastor Jean (well maybe not the



# Don't Miss This!

## The Outdoor Worship Service and Rally Day Pot Luck Brunch is at Youth Community Park on Sunday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 am!

TLC Youth have planned and will lead our service, and we'll worship outside at the park rather than in our usual church setting! Youth Community Park is located about a mile north of the church on Fulton Road, just across from Piner High School. Worship will be followed by a pot luck brunch (and maybe a few surprises), so bring along a dish to share and a folding chair!

## In Case you Missed It...

Nifty Fifties Plus gathered in July at Betty Hiebel's home for Game Night. Contrary to what some\* thought, Betty did not have us play games that she played in junior high school. Her games required a certain degree of intellectual dexterity.

She started us with a quiz on Biblical topics. Tough questions . . . everyone\* did rather poorly. Anyhow, the questions were sort of off-the-wall. Then we played a card game for awhile that was like a cousin to Rummy. Next came the main event which was Bingo. Betty even had a cylindrical-style holder that spit out little number-balls just like you see at professional Bingo Halls. Champion players were: Gloria and Paul Feiertag, Dave Flanagan, Flak, and Diane Land. They won prizes furnished by Betty.

Of course, we had dinner before the games began. Betty had turned her living room into a medieval Great Hall, with a long banquet table stretching across the room. She fed us well, with several dessert choices. For some\*, the desserts continued non-stop. Betty left a bowl of little Hershey chocolates unguarded. This was the object of frequent forays by certain retired personnel\*. After people\* retire, why do they become uncontrollably ravenous whenever chocolate is within reaching range? Poor Betty ran her little legs off refilling the bowl.

Also attending were: Mary Dawson, Jean Flak, Kathy Flanagan, Ingrid Feiertag, Linda Holzworth, Roger and Lorraine Larson, and Donna Phillips.

*George Land*

\*editor found herself substituting the name "George Land" here... :o)

# Community Garden!

Do you wish you had a little plot of land to garden?

Would you like better access to inexpensive local produce?

Would you enjoy meeting and working alongside others from your neighborhood?

Do you have gardening stories, experience, materials or resources to share?

Get in on the “ground” floor of this community project - attend the planning meeting to be scheduled for early October.

NEXT PLANTING: SPRING 2008

The TLC Community Garden Project  
at  
Thanksgiving Lutheran Church  
1225 Fulton Road  
(at W. College)  
Santa Rosa

***For information, check the TLC website  
at [www.thanksgivinglutheran.org](http://www.thanksgivinglutheran.org) or call 887-9348***



# So Much Zucchini, Only So Many Neighbors!

At the beginning of the summer my hobby was *growing* vegetables. Now my hobby is *picking* vegetables, and finding new ways to *EAT* vegetables! Here are a couple of recipes for some of that zucchini and a few of those tomatoes...*ed*.

## Easy Gazpacho

From [www.waleg.com](http://www.waleg.com), this light vegetarian soup is fresh, cool and delicious.

4 cups cold tomato juice (If you have lots of tomatoes, you might like to make your own juice, too!)  
1 small, well minced onion  
2 cups freshly diced tomatoes  
1 cup minced green pepper  
1 diced cucumber  
2 scallions, chopped  
1 clove crushed garlic  
Juice of 1/2 lemon  
1 teaspoon each tarragon & basil  
Dash of ground cumin  
Dash of Tabasco sauce  
Salt & Pepper to taste

Combine all ingredients & chill for at least 2 hours. Puree if desired.

## Zucchini muffins (reduced fat)

adapted from a *Light Muffins* recipe by Beatrice Ojakangas

1 3/4 cups white whole wheat or unbleached all purpose flour  
2/3 cup sugar  
1 tsp baking powder  
1/2 tsp baking soda  
1 Tblsp cocoa powder  
1/2 tsp cinnamon  
1/2 tsp nutmeg  
1/2 tsp salt  
2 Tblsp. powdered buttermilk

1 cup shredded unpeeled zucchini (less than one large)  
2 Tblsp walnut oil - or other nut oil, e.g. hazelnut  
2 Tblsp. canola or corn oil  
1 egg and 1 egg white, lightly beaten  
1 tsp vanilla

## Chocolate Chip Zucchini Bread

3/4 cup sugar  
3 Tblsp vegetable oil  
2 large eggs  
1 cup applesauce

2 cups all purpose flour  
2 Tblsp cocoa powder  
1 1/4 tsp baking soda  
1 teaspoon cinnamon  
1/4 tsp salt  
1 1/2 cups finely shredded zucchini (1 large-ish, but not mega, one)  
1/2 cup semisweet chocolate chips

Preheat oven to 350F. Grease or spray a 9x5 loaf pan.

Beat first 3 ingredients together until well blended, stir in applesauce. Combine flour, cocoa, soda, cinnamon and salt. Add to sugar mixture, beating just until smooth. Stir in zucchini and chips. Spoon batter into pan and bake at for an hour, or until pick, straw or whatever inserted in center comes out almost clean. (This is a moist item, but you don't want it gooey.)

Cool in pan 10 minutes, then turn out on wire rack. Cool completely. 16 servings/slices.

1/2 cup water  
handful chopped nuts corresponding to nut oil  
*Preheat the oven to 400F. Grease, spray or paper line 12 regular sized muffin cups*

Mix the dry ingredients together. Mix the wet ingredients together. Stir the wet into the dry until just blended. Spoon into muffin cups, dividing evenly. Sprinkle a few chopped nuts on top. Bake for 20 - 25 minutes, using the skewer/broomstraw test for doneness. Cool a minute or so in the pan, then remove to finish cooling on a wire rack. Or serve warm.

You can use liquid buttermilk if you have it. These freeze okay, or grate zucchini and freeze in 1 cup amounts in Ziploc bags to make more muffins later.

*(Zucchini recipes from Phina Borgeson, TLC Community Garden Project enthusiast)*

## Getting to Know...

### Scott and Julie Schoepp

The Schoepp's date back almost to the beginning of TLC. They moved to Santa Rosa because of family ties in the area. They chose TLC because of the people here. They liked Bob and Joan and especially connected with Diane Marten after she arrived.

Scott grew up in Chicago with the Missouri Synod. His parents were teachers in Lutheran schools . . . and he went there also. Then on to UC Santa Barbara, completing his degree at Humboldt State. His major was Studio Art and his specialties were figure painting and jewelry, plus a minor in Science.

After college, he worked various interesting jobs like: driving a fork-lift, cook on a tour boat in Alaska, plus a cookbook publisher. Then he got serious and went back to college for a teaching credential at Hayward State.

He was teaching 7<sup>th</sup> grade in San Lorenzo, then on to Windsor Middle School when they came to Santa Rosa. You might say he is in a rut . . . still teaching 7<sup>th</sup> grade . . . the only grade he has ever done in all 20 years.

Julie was born into a Catholic family and grew up in Pleasant Hill. She is a 1978 graduate of Carondelet High School. She graduated from UC Berkeley with a degree in Business-Finance. This meant a lot of accounting classes. Thus, she went to work for the nationwide accounting firm of Touche-Ross. She was there for 11 years, while also achieving a CPA. She is now a Senior Tax Partner with Dal Poggeto and Company, where her specialty is income tax.

They were married in 1985 in a combination Catholic-Lutheran wedding . . . can you imagine? Great care is taken to balance religious backgrounds . . . and keep their parents happy. The two boys attend(ed) Catholic high schools, and we get all of them for church services.

Nathan was born in 1989. He graduated from Cardinal Newman last year and was Valedictorian. Then the scholarships rolled in. Full rides to UCSB and UC Davis. A tough choice to make. So he took UC San Diego . . . who offered nothing. He liked their Biology Department. Scott has finally calmed down from the shock.

Tim came along in 1992. He is a sophomore at Cardinal Newman. But both boys attended Lutheran elementary schools. Scott reports that he is very different from Nathan. Perhaps, Scott is hoping for a more cost-conscious college choice when the time comes?

Julie likes to knit and read novels when she is not busy with taxes during "the season." Scott's passion is cooking. He is the family cook. He also gardens around their Victorian home. It was built in 1887 in the heart of historic Santa Rosa. Much remodeling has kept it updated.

Currently a Reader, Scott has been active in past years as a Council member and was on the Building Committee. Julie has been a Counter.

Now the Small World Department: *First*, the Schoepp's were members of Grand Lake Lutheran where Pastor Jean grew up, though not at the same time. *Second*, Pastor Pieper was their Pastor at Grand Lake and married them in 1985. He was also at Pastor Jean's Ordination. *Third*, Scott's father was Ingrid Feiertag's 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher in Chicago. Yep, tiny little world!

*George Land*



# Living Our Covenant – Communicating!

“We each take responsibility to share and seek out information regarding the life and work of our church. The channels for communication and decision making are continually updated and publicized.”

-TLC Relational Covenant #8

You and your group of TLC friends and fellow committee members spend A LOT of time planning and organizing your events and activities, and you want people to know about them, right? Or perhaps you aren't planning an activity yourself, but want to know what's going on so you don't miss out on something great? In the interest of helping all of us live out the call suggested by our congregation's 8<sup>th</sup> covenant, the Council thought that now might be a good time to offer some guidelines and suggestions for publicizing meetings, events, and activities of TLC. If you want to SHARE information about an activity, try to make use of ALL of the following channels to build awareness of your event! If everyone gets in the habit of using all these avenues of publicity, it will make it so much easier for people who SEEK information or involvement to know where and how they can participate!

- **Weekly Announcement Sheet:** To include an item in the weekly announcement sheet (handed out with the bulletins on Sunday mornings), submit your information to Sandi Leithe in the office by Wednesday evening; you can call the office at 544-0241, leave a written message on Sandi's desk, or send an email to [tlcsantarosa@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tlcsantarosa@sbcglobal.net). Be sure to include a contact person (name and phone or email address are helpful) as well as the usual date and time info. Diligent use of the announcement sheet will help us cut down on the number and length of verbal announcements on Sunday mornings!
- **Website:** To have information posted on TLC's website ([www.thanksgivinglutheran.org](http://www.thanksgivinglutheran.org)) submit information to our Webmaster, Jim Lehman. It is most helpful if you can send Jim the info via email to [tluther@thanksgivinglutheran.org](mailto:tluther@thanksgivinglutheran.org). Jim can even include digital photos or graphics if you have them!
- **The Trumpet Monthly Newsletter:** The Trumpet is distributed monthly, and aims for publication on or before the first Sunday of each month. Trumpet items can be emailed to Editor Karen Lehman at [editor@thanksgivinglutheran.org](mailto:editor@thanksgivinglutheran.org) or placed in the "Lehman" mailbox in the church hallway. Trumpet deadlines are typically the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month, and are published in the Trumpet each month. Karen requests that articles be no longer than 500 words, and it is helpful if emailed items use 12 point Arial font. When writing your article, be sure to include date, time, and contact info for your event!
- **The Press Democrat Saturday Religion Calendar:** The Santa Rosa Press Democrat publishes a calendar of events on the Religion page every Saturday, and there is no cost for submitting announcements! Information on your event needs to be submitted two weeks before the desired publication date; submissions need to include time, date, description of the event, cost, place, address, sponsor (usually Thanksgiving Lutheran Church), and a phone number for information as well as the name and phone number of a contact person. Ways to submit: E-mail [assts@pressdemocrat.com](mailto:assts@pressdemocrat.com) (include "calendar" in the subject line); fax to 521-5330; mail to Calendar, The Press Democrat, P.O. Box 910, Santa Rosa 95402.

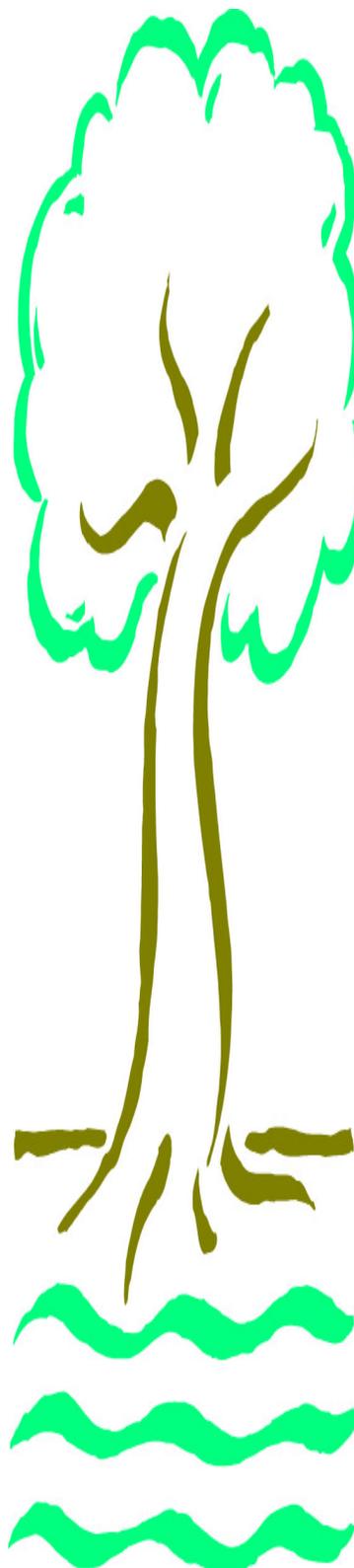
*Sandy Koppen*



# Scripture Readings and Themes

## September 2007

September 2	The Relief of Place Settings	
	Proverbs 25:6-7	Sit with humility
	Psalms 112	The righteous are merciful and compassionate
	Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16	Be nice
	Luke 14:1, 7-14	Parables of places
September 9	What Psalm 1 means to us (Outdoor Youth Service)	
September 16	The Lost and the Found	
	Exodus 32:7-14	Everybody changes their mind
	Psalms 51:1-10	Create in me a clean heart
	1 Timothy 1:12-17	Christ saved a wretch like me
	Luke 15:1-10	Parables of the lost
September 23	Rich Man, Poor Man, Beggar Man, Thief	
	Amos 8:4-7	Prophecy to the sick of the poor
	Psalms 113	The order of the phoenix
	1 Timothy 2:1-7	Pray for the kings
	Luke 16:1-13	The shrewd steward
September 30	Contentment Vs. Resentment	
	Amos 6:1a, 4-7	Epicurean journeys
	Psalms 146	Justice to the oppressed
	1 Timothy 6:6-19	The godliness of contentment
	Luke 16:19-31	The parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus



He is  
like a  
tree  
planted  
by  
streams  
of water.  
Psalm 1:3



HOW'S **IT** GOING?  
 I'M GETTING **IT** TOGETHER  
 GET WITH **IT**!  
 I'VE HAD **IT** UP TO HERE.  
 JUST DO **IT**  
**IT** PILES UP.  
**IT** GETS OUT OF CONTROL  
**IT** GETS TOO OVERWHELMING  
 IT'S LIKE **IT** GETS TO BE HELL AFTER A WHILE.  
 I CAN'T TAKE **IT** ANYMORE...



REMEMBER THE SABBATH DAY  
 AND KEEP **IT** HOLY

LIFE GETS BUSY! FOR YOUR OWN BENEFIT, PUT **IT** ALL ASIDE AND COME TO THE TLC WOMEN'S RETREAT!  
**IT** IS WORTH IT!



*Pastor Jean*

The 13<sup>th</sup> Annual TLC Women's Retreat, "A Little TLC For Me: A Time of Sabbath for the Women of TLC" is scheduled for November 9-11 at Bishop's Ranch in Healdsburg.

After getting the word from "El Rancho" that the cottages were available to us and sending out the call to see who could commit, I received another call saying that the Ranch had been notified by a group whose time to respond had expired had just sent out a flyer asking for reservations. Ranch staff told me that they have reserved 6 rooms for us in Webb Lodge, which will accommodate 12, and I am waiting to hear as to how they plan to accommodate the rest of us! They felt confident that other groups wouldn't fill, and that there would be cottage space available for us.

We have 19 women who have indicated their desire to attend this year – the quickest, most enthusiastic response I've ever received! If you haven't responded and would like to attend, please let me know as soon as possible, and let's all pray that the Spirit will move for us trust that all who wish to attend will be accommodated! As soon as I have word, I will let you know!

Peace,

Karen Lehman  
 Retreat Coordinator



## **“WHEN...HE TURNED ASIDE...GOD CALLED TO HIM”**

### **Exodus 3:4**

It was business-as-usual for Moses the day he noticed the burning bush, an event that wasn't uncommon in the hot desert. Except this time the bush kept burning. And “when...he turned aside to look, God called to him.” You'll have some of your greatest spiritual experiences in the midst of your everyday life – if you're open to a divine interruption.

In Luke, Chapter 10, Mary ministered to Jesus' divine nature while Martha ministered to His human needs. But Martha's “kitchen agenda” made it almost impossible to interrupt her, while Mary was so heavenly minded she'd probably have forgotten to turn the stove on! Now it takes both to achieve a balance. But if Jesus has to choose, He'll take foot-washers over master-chefs every time. That's because one of our primary focuses should always be praise and worship, (expressed appreciation) resulting in greater intimacy with God.

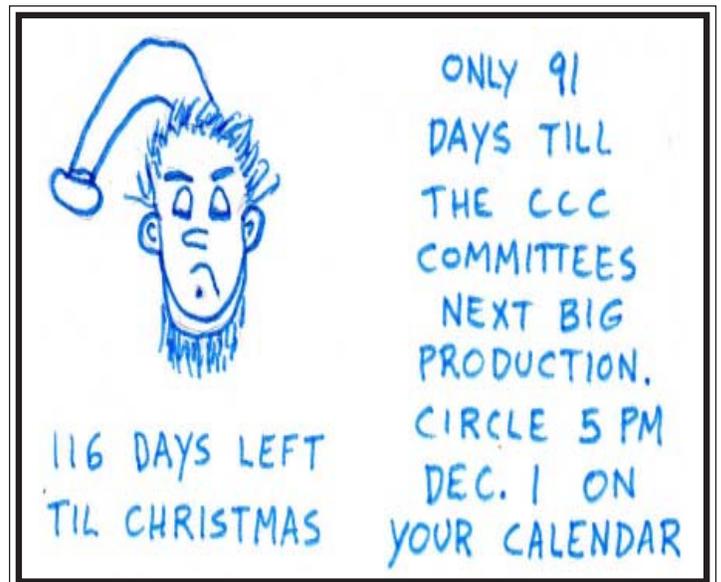
Are you so busy working on your “to-do list” that it would take fire from heaven to get your attention? A well-known pastor writes: “You can be in the midst of a common moment, only this time the activity is filled with the presence of God. When in the middle of your harried day you notice something unusual...your first reaction might be, 'I'm too tired to investigate...I'm not going to disrupt my life.' Yet in that moment you may have the opportunity for a unique encounter with God. When you see the unusual in the midst of the mundane, don't continue business-as-usual. God may have ordained that moment to be life-changing for you and those around you.”

## **Side by Side: A Journey with Depression** **Now Available on DVD**

Since debuting in September of 2004 in Northern California to sold out shows, Brian Wetzel's autobiographical one-man show, “Side by Side - A Journey With Depression - a funny look at serious survival” has toured full-time throughout the Western United States and performed at venues as diverse as Stanford University and Napa State Hospital.

Brian Wetzel was a professional stand-up comedian whose career and personal life were absorbed by his struggle with clinical depression, and subsequent addiction. Bringing his sense of humor and experiences together in his one-man show, Brian takes his audience on a unique journey of laughter, painful truth, and finally, hope. By walking side by side with the affliction, he finds a way to keep surviving, keep learning, and keep living.

Written and performed by Brian Wetzel  
Directed by Lizann Bassham  
Recorded live at the Glaser Center in March 2007  
Run time 75 minutes Rated PG-13  
\$20 plus shipping and handling through  
[www.wetzelproductions.com](http://www.wetzelproductions.com)



## **“Render Unto Caesar What is Caesar’s – And Not One Penny More!”**

That’s what my tax advisor – a faithful Christian woman - told me long ago...

Beginning last August, and pertaining to the 2007 tax year, those who are over 70 and a half years of age can donate a portion of IRA funds to a charity without having to pay taxes on that portion. This legislation means financial benefits for both the donor and non-profit organizations. If you would like to have more information on this, talk to your tax advisor.

Also, the IRS is now requiring receipts as confirmation of charitable gifts. This means that cash gifts have to be recorded by our congregation, and we need to know who the donor is so that we can give you a written confirmation of your gifts. Dropping cash in the offering plate and not putting it in an envelope with your name on it will no longer be considered a valid contribution in the event you are audited.

The best strategy is to be sure you have your own set of envelopes for each year so that we can give you quarterly and annual written confirmation of your donations. Contact the church office if you need offering envelopes.

*Adapted from an article from TheEvangel, the newsletter of St. Marks’s Lutheran in San Francisco...*

	Jul-07	Year To Date	2007 Budget
<b><u>Received</u></b>			
Building Fund (Mortgage)	2,846.10	15,202.75	
General Fund (envelopes + loose)	7,545.60	46,187.34	
All Other	755.00	6,291.05	
<b>TOTAL RECEIVED</b>	<b>11,146.70</b>	<b>67,681.14</b>	
<b><u>Expenses</u></b>			
Mission Support	754.06	5,056.61	9,500.00
Staff	5,057.67	30,624.25	52,200.00
Mortgage	1,964.33	15,528.30	33,600.00
All Other	1,984.23	17,574.78	35,677.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>9,760.29</b>	<b>68,783.94</b>	<b>130,977.00</b>

Our expenses this year have generally exceeded our income. However, since we began the year with a general fund balance of \$3053.72, our cash flow has been adequate—we are close to breaking even.

Building fund income has covered our mortgage expenses to date (remember, however, that this year's mortgage payments are “interest only.”)

We are currently meeting our Mission Support commitment!

If you would like further details about income and/or expenses, please see the monthly Finance Report posted on the bulletin board in the hallway or speak to a member of the Finance Team (Jan Loewen, Sandy Koppen, or Mary Thompson.)

## Mt. Cross Fall Work Weekend

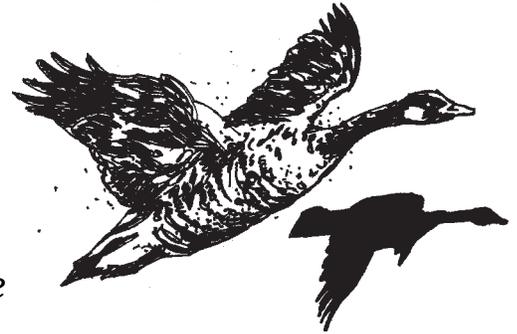
The annual end of the summer season Work Weekend will be Friday Sept 29th-Sunday 30th. Show your support for your camp by helping to complete some projects that are great for families and groups of all kinds. There is no cost for this event and all you need to do to register is contact the camp so they can be sure to save you a room.

Call 831-339-5179 or you can e-mail [mtcross@mtcross.org](mailto:mtcross@mtcross.org)

Zoe Zuest-Becker

### A Final Thought from Pastor Jean...

#### *Consider the Geese*



On the premise that Creation is a means of revelation of the Creator, consider those awesome, honking constellations of geese that pass by overhead.

Scientists have discovered things about why geese fly in V-shaped formations, and I wonder if what the geese have been given to know might help us as we “do church” together at TLC.

As each goose flaps its wings, it creates uplift for the bird immediately following. By flying in a “V” formation, then, the whole gaggle adds at least 71% greater flying range than if each goose flew on its own.

Perhaps people who share a common direction and sense of community, say, like a congregation, may also get to where they are traveling on the thrust of one another, and by working together, may achieve goals faster.

When a goose falls out of the formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of trying to go it alone, and it quickly returns to the formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the goose in front of it. When the lead goose tires, it drops back and lets another goose fly in the point.

In a group, it pays off to have every member take turns doing the hard jobs, taking leads. It adversely affects the entire flock if individuals who have been working hard don’t get chances to rest. If the whole group knows where they are going, anybody can take lead positions for a while, because the group is not following, everybody is working together.

The honking is coming from the geese who are flying at the back of the formation to encourage the ones working hard in the front to keep up their speed.

So, there is important work for those who are not taking a turn at the hard stuff right now; their job is to support and encourage those who are taking leads. There is no migration if part of the group sit back on their laurels (or other things that we tend to sit on). Also, honking is not complaining, it’s purposeful affirmation.

When a goose gets sick or wounded (from deadly forces, like rifles in the blinds, that are not part of the flock or the goals), two other geese leave the formation and follow it down to earth to provide help and protection. They stay until the disabled bird is able to fly or dies; then they launch out on their own or join another formation until they catch up with their group.

Isn’t that amazing evidence that love is a part of our essence. Heartbeats aren’t just for pumping blood, they are for achieving ministry!

Honk if you love TLC.

*Pastor Jean*

## Thanksgiving Lutheran Church is a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Congregation...

In faithfulness to the Gospel, we respond to God's compassionate love with openness of heart and spirit. Thanksgiving Lutheran Church is a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) congregation. We welcome and accept gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered people and their families as full participating members of the congregation. We welcome and accept all people regardless of their cultural or ethnic background, physical or mental abilities, socio-economic or marital status, gender, or age. God loves us exactly as we are. This congregation welcomes you, exactly as you are.

### Worship:

**Sunday morning at 9:30 with Children's Sermon, Holy Communion, and education hour for all ages (Starts Sept 16)**

**Pastor Jean Lebbert 707-327-6292**

**Church office: 707-544-0241**

**Sandi Leithe, church secretary**

**Karen Lehman, Trumpet editor**

### Council Officers:

**Sandy Koppen, President**

**Jim Lehman, Vice President**

**Colleen Sass, Secretary**

**Thanksgiving Lutheran Church**

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**On the web: [www.thanksgivinglutheran.org](http://www.thanksgivinglutheran.org)**



### **Lay off on Labor Day**

Pope Benedict XVI would appreciate our Labor Day holiday. Recently, while addressing a large audience, the Pope warned against working too hard. It is "bad for the spirit," he said.

He quoted the 12th-century writings of St. Bernard of Clairvaux, who spoke of "the dangers of an excessive activity, whatever the ... office held, because many occupations lead to a hardening of the heart."

Whatever our work, we must take at least one day each week to rest. For most people, this will be the Lord's Day, the Christian sabbath. As the Bible says: "Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work ...." (Exodus 20:8-10, NRSV).

### **Next Trumpet Deadline!**

The next TLC Trumpet deadline will be Wednesday, September 19. Editor requests articles be no longer than 500 words, using 12 point Arial font.

Please email submissions to:

[editor@thanksgivinglutheran.org](mailto:editor@thanksgivinglutheran.org)

If you do not have email, place submissions (along with your name in case any clarification is needed) in the "Lehman" mailbox at TLC.

Thank you for keeping the Trumpet interesting and informative! *editor*